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*North Korea has expressed regret for causing a large flood that claimed the lives of six South Koreans last month. The two sides have been meeting to discuss the incident. From the South Korean capital Seoul our correspondent John Sudworth reports:*

More than five weeks after North Korea released millions of tonnes of water from a dam and sent it surging south across the border, South Korea says it has **received the apology it was seeking**.

The meeting to discuss the incident had been requested by the South Korean government, and according to a spokesman, the officials who travelled to the North Korean city of Kaesong for the talks received **an expression of regret** from their northern counterparts as well as the **offer of condolences** to the families of six South Koreans killed in the flooding.

North Korea said soon after the incident that it had no choice but to release a large volume of water from its dam on the Imjin river **in order to avoid a bigger catastrophe**.

The flood control talks are being held at the same time as reports suggest North Korea may be **preparing to launch more short range missiles**. It test fired five missiles off its east coast on Monday. Although short range, South Korea has argued that the tests are **provocative** as they are **in breach of UN resolutions** banning the testing of all types of **ballistic weaponry**. If nothing else, the timing of this **latest flexing of military muscle** is puzzling. In recent talks with Beijing, Pyongyang is reported to have signalled that it might be willing to return to the **stalled nuclear disarmament talks**.

John Sudworth, BBC News, Seoul

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>received the apology it was seeking</b>	South Korea wanted North Korea to say they were sorry – which they did
<b>an expression of regret</b>	a showing of sadness about a mistake they had made and the wish that things could have been different
<b>offer of condolences</b>	expression of sympathy
<b>in order to avoid a bigger catastrophe</b>	to prevent a worse disaster or very bad situation from happening
<b>preparing to launch more short range missiles</b>	getting ready to use rockets with an ability to reach targets close to North Korea
<b>provocative</b>	likely to create an angry reaction
<b>in breach of UN resolutions</b>	are breaking the rules and agreements made by the UN
<b>ballistic weaponry</b>	weapons which fly through air
<b>latest flexing of military muscle</b>	a recent attempt by the army to show how powerful they are
<b>stalled nuclear disarmament talks</b>	discussions aimed at reducing or giving up the use of nuclear weapons which have made no recent progress

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